

The First NOEL

Handbell arrangement

(using 18 bells from a 3-octave set)

by

Matt Johnson

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

DOLCE
& NUIT
PRODUCTIONS



COMPOSER'S NOTES

This intimate adaptation features melodic handbells floating above the harmonic swirls of the piano. On the recording, elegantly sparse orchestration frames the hypnotic rhythm and lulls the listener into a peaceful mood. The work was created during Matt's 30+ year career as Director of Music within the church world. He often composed or arranged for the handbell choirs he directed.

- The composer engraved this arrangement and acknowledges that clarity of intent often won over strict adherence to notational rules. For example, all notes were written in the treble clef...while handbell notation dictates notes below middle-C should be written in the bass clef. This provided melodic clarity and a cleaner look. Also, since the chords were left above the staff, the handbell part may double as a "lead sheet."
- Two bells from a 3-octave set of handbells are needed to play the highest notes in this 2-octave arrangement.
- While notated in 4/4 time signature, it may prove helpful to count as if in 12/8.
- Ring pick-up notes lighter with a slight crescendo into the down beat of each phrase.
- Original concept was to have a small number of ringers playing the piece from memory, gathered around the piano, for a more intimate and visually appealing presentation.
- The 18 bells may be assigned to six (6) ringers as follows:
 - Ringer 1: G4, A4, F#6, G6
 - Ringer 2: B4, C5, E6
 - Ringer 3: D5, D#5, E5, A6
 - Ringer 4: F#5, G5, B6
 - Ringer 5: A5, B5
 - Ringer 6: C6, D6

Peace,

Matt Johnson

The First NOEL



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for handbells, with piano accompaniment

Flowing (♩ = circa 63)

DNP-1291_Handbell Arrangement - 3 of 13

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5

G

p

3

6

6

D/F#

3

6

7

Em

3

6

8

D

3

6

13

G

mp

6

14

Em

6

15

G

6

16

Em

* optional lower notes

mf

6

17

G

3

6

6

6

6

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system consists of a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It begins with a measure containing a half note G4 and a dotted half note A4, with the number '18' above the staff. This is followed by a measure with a quarter rest, then a triplet of eighth notes (B4, C5, B4), and finally a measure with a half note G4 and a dotted half note A4. The second system is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble staff is labeled 'D/F#' and contains a series of chords: D4, D4, D4, D4, D4, D4, D4, and D4. The bass staff contains a series of notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F#7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F#8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F#9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F#10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F#11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F#12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F#13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F#14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F#15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F#16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F#17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F#18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F#19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F#20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F#21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F#22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F#23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F#24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F#25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F#26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F#27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F#28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F#29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F#30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F#31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F#32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F#33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F#34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F#35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F#36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F#37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F#38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F#39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F#40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F#41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F#42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F#43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F#44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F#45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F#46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F#47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F#48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F#49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F#50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F#51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F#52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F#53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F#54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F#55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F#56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F#57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F#58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F#59, G59, A59, B59, C60, D60, E60, F#60, G60, A60, B60, C61, D61, E61, F#61, G61, A61, B61, C62, D62, E62, F#62, G62, A62, B62, C63, D63, E63, F#63, G63, A63, B63, C64, D64, E64, F#64, G64, A64, B64, C65, D65, E65, F#65, G65, A65, B65, C66, D66, E66, F#66, G66, A66, B66, C67, D67, E67, F#67, G67, A67, B67, C68, D68, E68, F#68, G68, A68, B68, C69, D69, E69, F#69, G69, A69, B69, C70, D70, E70, F#70, G70, A70, B70, C71, D71, E71, F#71, G71, A71, B71, C72, D72, E72, F#72, G72, A72, B72, C73, D73, E73, F#73, G73, A73, B73, C74, D74, E74, F#74, G74, A74, B74, C75, D75, E75, F#75, G75, A75, B75, C76, D76, E76, F#76, G76, A76, B76, C77, D77, E77, F#77, G77, A77, B77, C78, D78, E78, F#78, G78, A78, B78, C79, D79, E79, F#79, G79, A79, B79, C80, D80, E80, F#80, G80, A80, B80, C81, D81, E81, F#81, G81, A81, B81, C82, D82, E82, F#82, G82, A82, B82, C83, D83, E83, F#83, G83, A83, B83, C84, D84, E84, F#84, G84, A84, B84, C85, D85, E85, F#85, G85, A85, B85, C86, D86, E86, F#86, G86, A86, B86, C87, D87, E87, F#87, G87, A87, B87, C88, D88, E88, F#88, G88, A88, B88, C89, D89, E89, F#89, G89, A89, B89, C90, D90, E90, F#90, G90, A90, B90, C91, D91, E91, F#91, G91, A91, B91, C92, D92, E92, F#92, G92, A92, B92, C93, D93, E93, F#93, G93, A93, B93, C94, D94, E94, F#94, G94, A94, B94, C95, D95, E95, F#95, G95, A95, B95, C96, D96, E96, F#96, G96, A96, B96, C97, D97, E97, F#97, G97, A97, B97, C98, D98, E98, F#98, G98, A98, B98, C99, D99, E99, F#99, G99, A99, B99, C100, D100, E100, F#100, G100, A100, B100, C101, D101, E101, F#101, G101, A101, B101, C102, D102, E102, F#102, G102, A102, B102, C103, D103, E103, F#103, G103, A103, B103, C104, D104, E104, F#104, G104, A104, B104, C105, D105, E105, F#105, G105, A105, B105, C106, D106, E106, F#106, G106, A106, B106, C107, D107, E107, F#107, G107, A107, B107, C108, D108, E108, F#108, G108, A108, B108, C109, D109, E109, F#109, G109, A109, B109, C110, D110, E110, F#110, G110, A110, B110, C111, D111, E111, F#111, G111, A111, B111, C112, D112, E112, F#112, G112, A112, B112, C113, D113, E113, F#113, G113, A113, B113, C114, D114, E114, F#114, G114, A114, B114, C115, D115, E115, F#115, G115, A115, B115, C116, D116, E116, F#116, G116, A116, B116, C117, D117, E117, F#117, G117, A117, B117, C118, D118, E118, F#118, G118, A118, B118, C119, D119, E119, F#119, G119, A119, B119, C120, D120, E120, F#120, G120, A120, B120, C121, D121, E121, F#121, G121, A121, B121, C122, D122, E122, F#122, G122, A122, B122, C123, D123, E123, F#123, G123, A123, B123, C124, D124, E124, F#124, G124, A124, B124, C125, D125, E125, F#125, G125, A125, B125, C126, D126, E126, F#126, G126, A126, B126, C127, D127, E127, F#127, G127, A127, B127, C128, D128, E128, F#128, G128, A128, B128, C129, D129, E129, F#129, G129, A129, B129, C130, D130, E130, F#130, G130, A130, B130, C131, D131, E131, F

Handbell arrangement score, measures 21 through 24. The score is written for a single handbell in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measure 21: The handbell part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and a half-note pattern in the treble. Chord: C.

Measure 22: The handbell part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. Chord: Bm7.

Measure 23: The handbell part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. Chord: F.

Measure 24: The handbell part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. Chord: Dsus, then D#dim7. The word "tutti" is written below the piano part.

The piano accompaniment consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern in the bass and a half-note pattern in the treble, providing a steady harmonic foundation for the handbell melody.

25

Em

26

D

27

C

28

Bm7

DNP-1291_Handbell Arrangement - 10 of 13

33

Em

mf

3

6

6

6

6

34

D

3

6

6

6

6

35

C

3

6

6

6

6

36

B

6

6

6

6

37

Am

6

38

Bm7

6

39

decresc.

C

decresc.

6

40

Dsus

D

mf

3

41

G

mp

6

42

Em

6

43

G

6

44

Em

6

45

G

6

The First NOEL

3-octaves, or
2-octaves (*plus 2 bells*)
Bells needed: 18



• HANDBELL PART • LEAD SHEET

arr. by MATT JOHNSON (ASCAP)
www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

Flowing (♩ = circa 63)

A musical score for handbells in treble clef, 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is divided into four systems. The first system contains measures 1-5 with chords G, Em, G, Em, and G. The second system contains measures 6-9 with chords D/F#, Em, D, and C. The third system contains measures 10-14 with chords Bm7, F, Dsus, D, G, and Em. The fourth system contains measures 15-18 with chords G, Em, G, and D/F#. The notation includes various rhythmic values, triplets, and dynamic markings: mp (mezzo-piano) at measure 5, mf (mezzo-forte) at measure 17, and an asterisk (*) at measure 17 indicating optional lower notes.

* optional lower notes

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Em 19 D 20 C 21 Bm7 22

F 23 Dsus 24 D#dim7 25 Em 26

D 27 Bm7 28 Am 29

Bm7 30 C 31 Dsus 32 D#dim7 33 Em 34

D 35 C 36 B 37 Am 38

Bm7 39 C 40 Dsus D 41 G 42 Em 43

G 44 Em 45 G

tutti

cresc.

f

decresc.

mp



The First NOEL

for Solo Piano

by

Matt Johnson

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

DOLCE

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PRODUCTIONS



COMPOSER'S NOTES

This intimate adaptation features melodic handbells floating above the harmonic swirls of the piano. On the recording, elegantly sparse orchestration frames the hypnotic rhythm and lulls the listener into a peaceful mood. The work was created during Matt's 30+ year career as Director of Music within the church world. He often composed or arranged for the handbell choirs he directed.

- *The composer engraved this arrangement and acknowledges that clarity of intent often won over strict adherence to notational rules.*
- *While notated in 4/4 time signature, it may prove helpful to count as if in 12/8.*
- *The solo piano arrangement was originally created in the key of D major and later transposed to G major, in order to accommodate for handbells.*
- *Both key options are included. (I play it in the key of D major)*

The First NOEL

Peace,

Matt Johnson



www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

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The First NOEL

Key of G

arr. by MATT JOHNSON (ASCAP)
www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

Flowing (12/8 feeling)

Musical score for "The Rose Tree" in G major, 4/4 time, for piano. The score is divided into four systems. System 1: Treble clef has a G4 quarter note, then a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, and a half note G4-A4-B4-C5. Bass clef has a half note G2-A2-B2-C3, then a half note G2-A2-B2-C3, and a half note G2-A2-B2-C3. System 2: Treble clef has a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, then a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, and a half note G4-A4-B4-C5. Bass clef has a half note G2-A2-B2-C3, then a half note G2-A2-B2-C3, and a half note G2-A2-B2-C3. System 3: Treble clef has a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, then a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, and a half note G4-A4-B4-C5. Bass clef has a half note G2-A2-B2-C3, then a half note G2-A2-B2-C3, and a half note G2-A2-B2-C3. System 4: Treble clef has a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, then a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, and a half note G4-A4-B4-C5. Bass clef has a half note G2-A2-B2-C3, then a half note G2-A2-B2-C3, and a half note G2-A2-B2-C3. The score includes dynamic markings like "mp" and "p", and articulation like "with pedal" and "decresc.".

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5 G

M.d.

6

3

6 D/F#

6

3

7 Em

6

3

8 D

6

3

9 C

10 Bm7

11 F

12 Dsus D

13 G

14 Em

cresc.

15 G

16 Em

17 G

M.d.

3

6

18 D/F#

3

6

19 Em

3

6

20 D

3

6

21 C

22 Bm7

23 F

24 Dsus D#dim7

25 Em

M.d.

6 6 6 6

3

29 Am

Measures 29-30: Am chord. The right hand plays a sustained triad (A, C, E) in the treble clef. The left hand plays a descending eighth-note pattern (A, G, F, E, D, C, B, A) in the bass clef, with a sixteenth-note triplet (A, G, F) at the end of measure 30. A long slur covers the entire passage.

30 Bm7

Measures 30-31: Bm7 chord. The right hand plays a sustained triad (B, D, F) in the treble clef. The left hand plays a descending eighth-note pattern (B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B) in the bass clef, with a sixteenth-note triplet (B, A, G) at the end of measure 31. A long slur covers the entire passage.

31 C

cresc.

Measures 31-32: C chord. The right hand plays a sustained triad (C, E, G) in the treble clef. The left hand plays a descending eighth-note pattern (C, B, A, G, F, E, D, C) in the bass clef, with a sixteenth-note triplet (C, B, A) at the end of measure 32. A long slur covers the entire passage.

32 Dsus

D#dim7

mf

Measures 32-33: Dsus and D#dim7 chords. The right hand plays a sustained triad (D, F, A) in the treble clef. The left hand plays a descending eighth-note pattern (D, C, B, A, G, F, E, D) in the bass clef, with a sixteenth-note triplet (D, C, B) at the end of measure 33. A long slur covers the entire passage.

33 Em

34 D

35 C

36 B

37 Am

6

38 Bm7

6

39 C

decresc.

6

40 Dsus D

M.d.

mp

6

41 G

42 Em
decresc.

43 G

44 Em G

The First NOEL

Key of D
(original key)

arr. by MATT JOHNSON (ASCAP)
www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

Flowing (12/8 feeling)

Piano

mp

with pedal

2

Bm

3

D

M.d.

4

Bm

decresc.

p

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5 **D**

M.d.

9 **G**

10 **F#m7**

11 **C**

12 **Asus** **A**

13 D

14 Bm

cresc.

15 D

16 Bm

17 **D**

M.d.

18 **A/C#**

19 **Bm**

20 **A**

21 **G**

22 **F#m7**

23 **C**

24 **A sus** **A#dim7**

25 **Bm**

M.d.

26 **A**

27 **G**

28 **F#m7**

29 Em

6 6 6 6

30 F#m7

6 6 6 6

31 G

cresc.

6 6 6 6

32 Asus

A#dim7

mf

6 6 6 6

33 Bm

37 Em

38 F#m7

39 G

decresc.

40 A sus

A

M.d.

mp

41 D

42 Bm

decresc.

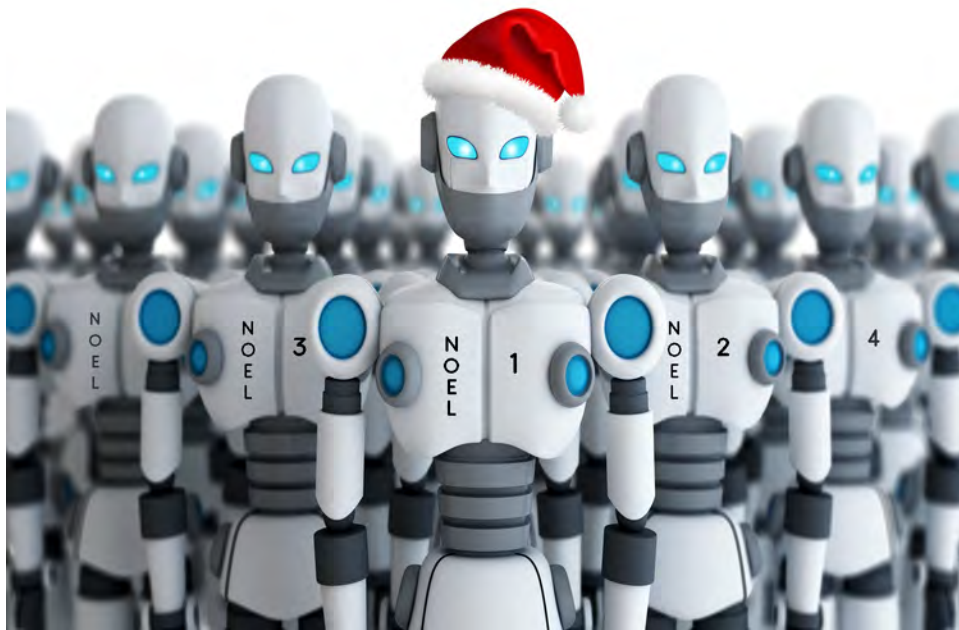
43 D

44 Bm

p

M.d.

The First NOEL



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Peace,



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